

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LB 594, 698

Senator Jensen's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Jensen amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk, next amendment.

CLERK: Next amendment, Mr. President, AM1506 from Senator Suttle, but I have a note she wants to withdraw. Senator Suttle would move to amend with AM1589, Mr. President. (AM1589, Legislative Journal page 1815.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Suttle, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. AM1589 adds provisions from a couple of bills, LB 698, which is a nursing clean-up bill that amends various provisions of the Nurse Practice Act. It deletes a requirement that the Board of Nursing elect its officers in January, and requires the election to be held at the board's last scheduled meeting of the calendar year. It broadens the discretion of the board in conducting reviews of nursing practice and education standards, and surveys of state nursing programs. It provides for renewal of nursing license upon payment of the renewal fee, and an additional \$50. Licenses that are not renewed will be lapsed instead of revoked. It deletes provisions requiring approval from the board for reinstatement of an active license. Only nurses whose licenses are inactive for disciplinary reasons are required to petition the board for reinstatement. It expands current law defining the illegal practice of nursing. Current law provides sanctions for those who practice nursing with their license...when their license is expired or lapsed. It also has the same sanction to those who practice nursing prior to receiving a license or temporary permit, and those who practice nursing on a suspended or revoked license. It expands a current exception to the Nurse Practice Act. Current law allows for the performance of health maintenance activities by an unlicensed caregiver for a competent adult, at the direction of that adult. This bill changes the term "caregiver" to "care aide", and "care aide" is in the medical aide, and this is to make it homogenized with the Health and Human Services existing law. Care aide may also be directed by a caretaker to provide such activities for a minor child or incompetent adult. A caretaker is defined as a person who is one directly and personally involved in providing care